

Daisy Stonhold 1910-1998

Daisy Stonhold, who died on 9 February, was born on the Suburb in 1910. Her parents had moved here the previous year, her father being Clerk of Works for the Suburb builders. She lived all her life on the Suburb and loved the area and its people.

Daisy's father was killed at the Battle of the Somme when she was only seven. His name is recorded on the War Memorial panel in the Free Church. Her mother had a very difficult time bringing up two children on her own. Daisy went to the Garden Suburb School at the age of five and, when she was fourteen, she attended the Mornington School of Commerce until she was sixteen.

After the Second World War Daisy became Secretary of the Garden Suburb Infants' School which she had attended as a child. She became known to a new generation of children, some of whom still live in the area and remember her with great affection. When she retired, she moved to the Institute as a part-time secretary where she enjoyed a new challenge - contact with overseas students!

As a young woman, Daisy played an active part in Suburb life. She sang in the Suburb Operatic Society and enjoyed all the facilities of the Old Clubhouse, which stood on the site of the present Fellowship House. She was also a Guide and a member of the Free Church Sunday School.

Daisy met her future husband, Leslie, while at the Garden Suburb school and they married in 1935. They lived in Asmunds Place until they were bombed out in 1940, when they moved round the corner to Asmunds Hill.

She was involved in setting up the Orchard Tenants' Association and served on its Committee. Her links with the Orchard stretched back over sixty years as her mother and aunt had lived in the Old Orchard.

Daisy had worked for the Hampstead Garden Suburb

Fellowship for thirty-seven years, first as Secretary of the Main Committee, then as the Free Church's representative and lastly as a member of the House Committee. She had been involved in helping at the previous Old Clubhouse. One of her earliest memories was of entertaining soldiers in the First World War when the Clubhouse was turned into a convalescent home.

Daisy became a member of the Free Church almost fifty years ago. She served as a Deacon and organised the Flower Rota until last December. She was Secretary of the Thursday Fellowship and helped to organise its activities. Only last October, she gave a talk, "Abroad with a Mini", an account of a European tour in a Mini Minor motor car.

Daisy had some unusual and exciting times. Long before flying was a common experience, she and Leslie, together with two friends, bought a small second-hand aeroplane. They had planned to make their fortune by offering short flights to the public. The fortune did not materialise but they had a lot of fun and the stories Daisy told of these adventures were as lively as they were unpredictable.

The family has received many cards and letters. They describe Daisy as a special and wonderful person who showed great kindness and gave practical help to others. She was a source of strength and encouragement and, above all, a good friend.



Daisy Stonhold, on stall duty as usual, chats to her son Brian.

Alexander Stuart Gray FRIBA 1905-1998

ALEXANDER STUART GRAY, FRIBA, could have done with several lifetimes - nearly 93 years were not enough to enable him to do all he wanted to do. Arthritis and fading eyesight slowed him up, but his 'new bones' gave him a new lease of life and he set about walking all over London until he really could not see his way. What an affliction for one to whom sight was a tool of trade and a constant source of delight and inspiration. Nevertheless, he found ways to manage many activities and he was not short of friends to help when he needed them, nor of family to take over discreetly what he could no longer do. Eventually, he decided to move to the Suburb Abbeyfield House in Homesfield, Erskine Hill, but sadly he was already in need of 'Extra Care' so he went to live in one of the Hill Homes in Highgate, and latterly to a nursing home in Muswell Hill. He died peacefully in the Whittington Hospital on 20th February, after developing pneumonia. I am sure that until he actually lost consciousness he would have been thinking of something he would do (or say) the next day.

His melodious Scottish name revealed his ancestry, of which he was very proud, but like so many Scots he never lived north of the border. Porridge was certainly his staple diet: oatmeal mixed with hot water, stirred thoroughly and boiled for a bit with NO LUMPS PLEASE, often enhanced with a raw egg beaten in as the brew came off the heat, and followed by a banana. He thrived on it and was rarely ill.

He loved London, but often worked abroad. A scholarship took him to Rome when he was an award-winning student, and later in the Caribbean and in Africa he spent many years, some in wartime, designing hospitals and other public buildings. Marriage brought him and his wife, Avis, to the Garden Suburb, to a pretty house at Middleway, where their three children grew up. But it was not until he retired from his very successful career in Watkins, Grey & Partners (his last job was the Royal Free Hospital) that he really settled in the Suburb and

turned his vigorous mind and pen to writing, which he worked at for nearly twenty-five years.

When I first met him in 1972, through Brigid Grafton Green, he was already deeply involved with his magnum opus *Edwardian Architecture*, (Duckworth, 1985) a comprehensive dictionary, featuring many of the Suburb architects and their buildings here. He occasionally visited the New Trust Offices, where I helped him a little in research on the Suburb architects. Avis sternly defended him from outside interruptions when he was working at home, but despite his diligence and her protection, his weighty tome took fifteen years to bring to publication. Then Duckworth's patience was well rewarded, for it was received with much acclaim as a unique 'Bible' for the period, and cited in his obituaries in the national press as a definitive contribution to architectural history. He began almost immediately on research for a sequel volume on the new Georgians, but this, alas, remained unfinished as other work came his way.

Stuart's concentrated study of Edwardian architecture led to increasing interest in the Suburb and he developed a series of walks for residents and visitors, whom he never tired of escorting. He gave the same care to a shy teenage student or a new resident as to a busload of professors, and as he himself was always learning, so was he always passing on his latest findings and challenging his listeners to stretch their imaginations and perceptions. The text of these Suburb walks have been published in the Residents' Association Yearbooks of 1974, '76 and '78, and subsequently taped for the Archives, so in a sense "the architect who does the Suburb walks", as he was often described, is still with us. He lectured in the Suburb and far afield, with a vast collection of slides to draw upon, made from his own and others' photographs, and contributed to exhibitions and publications with characteristic artistry, modestly displayed. Brigid Grafton Green was unstinting in her appreciation of his help in her research for her 1977 *History of the Suburb* (the first seventy years) and his stalwart support



Stuart Gray, photographed for Suburb News in 1990 at the time of his Hon Life Membership of the Residents Association.

in her efforts to set up the first permanent Archives collection and arrange exhibitions in the Suburb and outside. In the Design Study Group, formed by Alfred Lester in 1976, Stuart was the oldest and keenest member, the stimulating mentor of a group of serious devotees who relished "his enthusiasm and (his) imparting of his wide knowledge of the architectural history of the Suburb and its original architecture" and who "drew freely from his ideas" as Alfred acknowledged in the Study Group's 1977 Royal Silver Jubilee publication: *Hampstead Garden Suburb: Care and Appreciation of its Architectural Heritage*.

Another triumph outside the Suburb appeared in 1990: *Fanlights* (Alphabooks, A. & C. Black Ltd.) covering a wide field of Georgian excellence in collaboration with Charlotte Halliday, whose superb line drawings also graced the Edwardian book. Stuart included a reference to the Suburb with a beautiful photograph by Jane Whitton, who frequently worked with him and has the unique distinction of having photographed every building in the Suburb for the 1980's survey initiated by the Trust and Barnet Council. The subject was No.14 Erskine Hill which, with its opposite neighbour at No.13, presents a device by Lutyens of a fanlight which actually gives no light, for it covers with a wooden panel a staircase behind - a trick he learned from Wren. Lutyens further enjoyed himself in designing rococo wooden decorations on the 'fan' to complete the illusion.

Stuart had been a student in Lutyens' practice and delighted in his mischievous quirks, relating them with an equally mischievous touch of his own.

The last work was also a collaboration, this time with Dr Mervyn Miller, representative of the Royal Town Planning Institute on the Suburb Trust Council since 1979. They met through the Design Study Group, and quickly became friends and exchangers of information and opinions in their mutual interest in the work of Parker and Unwin (particularly Unwin, on whom Mervyn wrote his PhD thesis) and, of course, Lutyens. It was virtually inevitable that some writing would emerge from their dedicated scholarship and in 1992 there came *Hampstead Garden Suburb*, for Phillimore, who had published in the same series Mervyn's "lively account of the first Garden City" (Letchworth) in 1989. The Suburb book might well have taken Stuart another fifteen years on his own, but with Mervyn's energetic initiatives and their great respect for each other's talents, the project rolled along busily for a mere two years. By this time Stuart's eyesight was almost gone and I was fortunate to spend many happy hours reading for him and helping to correct and edit the text, and occasionally walking with him to check on some detail. The vast canvas which these authors covered will no doubt be followed sometime by other books on the Suburb, but this one will be the standard reference

Professor Henry Barcroft FRS 1905-1998

The Suburb lost one of its most distinguished scientists when Professor Henry Barcroft died in January after a short illness at the age of 93.

The son of Sir Joseph Barcroft FRS, the eminent Professor of Physiology in Cambridge, Henry soon made his own mark in physiology, first in Cambridge and then at University College London.

This led to his appointment, at the early age of 30, to the Chair of Physiology at Queen's University, Belfast, from where he moved to St Thomas' Hospital in London as Professor of Physiology in 1948. There he continued his research on the control of the circulation of blood to the human limbs, which led to his election as a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1953. He contributed much to the activities of the Physiological Society and the Research

Defence Society; and from 1966 to 1975 he served as a Trustee of the Wellcome Trust.

He and his wife Bridget (Biddy), who died in 1990, moved from Highgate to Erskine Hill after his retirement, and they much appreciated the tranquillity of life on the Suburb. They also enjoyed being near to their daughter, Sarah - who works for social services in Barnet - and their son-in-law, Peter Falk, and to their grandchildren (Chloe, Geoffrey and Nicholas Falk), who have participated over the years in a number of productions at the HGS Theatre. Henry and Biddy also had three sons, all of whom survive them.

Many friends and erstwhile colleagues filled the Free Church on 21 January to bid a last farewell to a highly respected and much loved man.

SHEILA MCMICHAEL



**Kinleigh
Folkard & Hayward**
INCORPORATING GORDON HUDSON

Successfully Selling in the Suburb

for over 45 years and now part of over 30 offices
serving South, Central and North London.

Don't trust the sale of your largest asset
to a less experienced agent.

You value your home and so do we.

HAMPSTEAD GARDEN SUBURB OFFICE
10 Market Place • London NW11 6JG

SALES
Tel: 0181 455 4755
Fax: 0181 455 3533

LETTINGS
Tel: 0181 883 2340
Fax: 0181 372 4658

TRAVEL CENTRE HAMPSTEAD GARDEN SUBURB

*Our experienced staff will
help with all
travel arrangements*

8 MARKET PLACE
NW11
0181 209 0444

